CHILDHOOD... ONE OF THE BEST TIMES IN LIFE...

...BUT ALSO THE TIME CHILDREN DESERVE THE MOST CARE. THEY'RE GROWING. THEY DEPEND ON ADULTS. BOTH AT HOME AND OUTSIDE, THEY NEED CARE AND AFFECTION IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT!

IT MIGHT COME AS A SURPRISE, BUT SOME OF THE GREATEST DANGERS TO CHILDREN ARE VERY CLOSE TO HOME...

...IN THEIR LITTLE WORLD...

...AT HOME...

...AT SCHOOL...

...EVEN IN THEIR OWN BACKYARD!!
Depending on where they live, children face many dangers! Especially if they live in overpopulated areas...

...without water, without electricity, without sanitation and without adequate food!

That’s when malnutrition and disease appear!

Right from birth, a baby needs lots of care and affection...

...and protection from all sorts of dangers...

...that may be right where the baby lives!

Six of the most important environmental dangers to a child’s health are:

- Contaminated water
- Lack of hygiene and sanitation
- Polluted air
- Harmful insects
- Chemical products
- Accidents

Be careful! These dangers are all around you every day!
WE NEED WATER FOR EVERYTHING IN OUR LIVES!...FOR DRINKING AND GETTING CLEAN...

...TO WASH OUR HANDS...

...AND TAKE BATHS...

BUT CONTAMINATED OR UNTREATED WATER CAUSES MANY DISEASES!!

DIARRHEA IS ONE OF THEM. IF A CHILD IS WEAK AND THE CONDITION IS NOT TREATED, DIARRHEA CAN CLAIM A CHILD’S LIFE.

WASHING HANDS BEFORE TOUCHING FOOD CAN HELP PREVENT MANY SERIOUS DISEASES.

LACK OF HYGIENE AND SANITATION

WITHOUT POTABLE WATER, SEWERAGE SYSTEMS AND SANITATION, CHILDREN’S LIVES ARE AT RISK...

...ESPECIALLY IF THEY PLAY AROUND OPEN SEWERS...

...WHERE THE DANGER OF DISEASE IS VERY GREAT!!

ATTACK!!

MAINLY THROUGH CONTACT WITH SEWAGE OR THROUGH INSECTS THAT BITE OR STING!
POLLUTED AIR CAN CAUSE SEVERE AND EVEN LONG-LASTING RESPIRATORY DISEASES!

LIVING SPACES WITH POOR VENTILATION AND HIGH HUMIDITY ALLOW GERMS AND MOLD TO GROW AND MULTIPLY...

...THESE CAN ATTACK THE SKIN AND LUNGS, CAUSING ALLERGIES IN CHILDREN AS THEY ARE GROWING AND GETTING STRONGER... BUT ARE STILL DELICATE AND VULNERABLE.

HARMFUL INSECTS

DISEASES TRANSMITTED BY INSECTS ARE A MAJOR THREAT TO CHILDREN!

PLAYING WITH OR NEAR OLD TIRES OR STAGNANT WATER IS DANGEROUS...

PARASITES AND MOSQUITOS TRANSMIT SERIOUS DISEASES THAT CLAIM THE LIVES OF MANY CHILDREN...

...THAT'S WHERE CHILDREN RUN THE RISK OF CONTRACTING DENGUE!!

COUGH!! COUGH!!
PRODUCTS CONTAINING CHEMICALS ARE USED MORE AND MORE IN EVERYDAY LIFE...

THEM THEY'RE IN OUR HOMES, AND UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE OFTEN KEPT WHERE CHILDREN CAN EASILY REACH THEM!!

ALL CLEANING PRODUCTS, PAINT THINNERS AND MEDICINES SHOULD BE KEPT OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN. THEY CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS AND EVEN END A CHILD'S LIFE...

...AND THAT'S NOT TO MENTION THE THOUSANDS OF LIVES LOST DUE TO ACCIDENTAL ASPHYXIATION...

...CAUSED BY POISONOUS FUMES!

FALLS...

...BURNS...

...POISONING...

... AND THESE ACCIDENTS CAN HAPPEN ANY PLACE, ANY TIME!!

...PLAYTIME ACCIDENTS...

...AND DROWNING!!
SO, WITH SO MANY DANGERS, WHAT CAN WE DO?

HOW CAN WE GUARANTEE A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR OUR CHILDREN?

FORTUNATELY, THERE ARE SOLUTIONS FOR ALL THESE PROBLEMS...

BY PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT, ESPECIALLY RIVERS AND FORESTS, WE CAN IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE POPULATION.

CLEAN WATER WITH GOOD SANITATION AND SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS WILL HELP REMOVE THREATS TO CHILDREN’S HEALTH.

CLEAN WATER

DANGER

PROBLEMS

SOLUTIONS

WASHING HANDS WITH SOAP AND WATER AFTER USING THE BATHROOM REDUCES THE RISK OF MANY DISEASES!

PUT GARBAGE IN A SECURE CONTAINER TO PREVENT CHILDREN FROM PLAYING WITH IT. KEEP TRASH OUT OF SEWERS, DRAINS AND GUTTERS TO AVOID FLOODING.

EXPAND WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES AND ELIMINATE OPEN SEWERS.

OUR LIVING SPACES SHOULD ALWAYS BE WELL VENTILATED!

AND SMOKERS SHOULD AVOID SMOKING NEAR CHILDREN!

WE MUST TAKE CARE TO PREVENT DISEASES TRANSMITTED BY MOSQUITOS. GET RID OF STAGNANT WATER IN CONTAINERS AND DISCARDED TIRES. MOSQUITOS CAN REPRODUCE IN THESE PLACES AND THEN TRANSMIT DENGUE AND OTHER DISEASES WHEN THEY BITE PEOPLE!

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CHEMICAL AND CLEANING PRODUCTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE KEPT OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

And we should talk to everyone about the need to find ways to reduce chemical pollution in the air, the soil, and the water.

THE SAME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH MEDICINES.

ACCIDENTS

To prevent accidents at home, especially with small children, install protective bars on windows, put guardrails on beds, and block electrical outlets with protective covers.

Teach children to be careful when crossing the street and be sure everyone wears a helmet when biking. In the car, children should sit in the back seat and always fasten their seat belts!

And children should be taught to swim from the time they’re small. It’s good for their health and their safety.

Chemical products.

Protecting children from dangers in their environment depends on all of us!

Caring for our children...

Caring for our children means caring for our future!

Let’s make sure it’s beautiful!
My friends, every one of you has the right to healthy environments in your home, in your school, and where you play.

Please stay healthy by drinking only safe water and by helping to clean up water containers around your home and school to get rid of mosquitoes that transmit diseases. Ask your parents never to smoke in the house and tell them you need clean air and good ventilation inside the home.

Kids, be very careful when playing, crossing streets, or walking where there are cars. One moment of not paying attention could kill you or hurt you very seriously. And whenever you ride a bike, wear a helmet.

Ask your parents to work with your schools and communities so you can have clean water and sanitation where you study and play.

Please keep away from anything poisonous that might hurt you, like medicines, cleaning liquids, pesticides, or alcohol. Stay away from guns and don’t play with objects that can hurt you like knives.

You deserve a healthy environment so you can grow up strong and healthy, and so that someday, your own kids will have a healthy environment too.

Dr. Mirta Roses Perygo
Director, Pan American Health Organization

Shape the future of life  Healthy environments for children

Pan American Health Organization
Regional Office of the World Health Organization

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